



MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

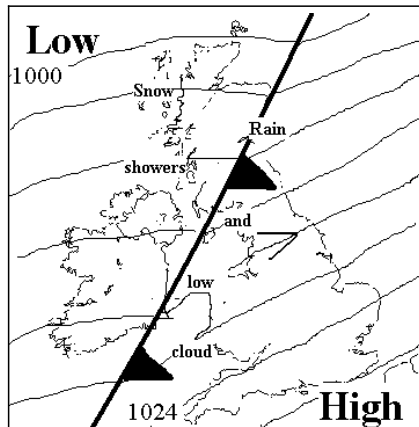
Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath

All the northeast Grampians east from Loch Lochy in the west to Cairnwell and in the east, the Lochnagar area



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General Summary for Wednesday, 2nd February, 2011



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 2nd February, 2011

Upland gales very widespread, strongest just ahead of a southeastward moving front, this bringing a band of rain and low cloud, particularly to western mountains. Turning colder across Scotland with snow showers coming in.

Headline for Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath

Upland gales. Patchy rain morning; later a few snow showers.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 2nd February, 2011

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly, 35 to 45mph; gusts 65mph, but in morning as strong as 60mph gusts 90mph near major ridges and summits.
Effect of wind on you?	Considerable buffeting, with periods of very difficult conditions higher up (but on lower hills, a brief lull after very severe morning conditions). Severe wind chill.
How wet?	Patchy rain; clearing to a few showers into the afternoon Patchy rain, mainly west of A9, with very little elsewhere. As rain clears (probably around midday), will give a dusting of snow above 700m. Then risk by dusk of snow showers.
Cloud on the hills?	Confined to higher areas Cloud base for several hours typically 600-850m west of A9 and 750 to mostly 1050m elsewhere. May well clear for periods in the afternoon, but returning near showers.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	60%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Sunshine in afternoon, most widely east. Persistently hazy, with visibility poor in cloud and precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	3C; through afternoon dropping to -1C, but will feel as cold as minus 16C directly in wind.
Freezing level	Above summits; dropping after rain clears to 800m.

Looking Ahead

	Thursday, 3rd February, 2011	Friday, 4th February, 2011
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly, in the range 45 to for periods 60mph; gusts up to over 80mph at times. By or after dusk expect 70mph, gusts possibly 120mph. Very difficult walking from glens upwards with any mobility likely to become impossible where exposed by late afternoon. Severe wind chill.	Westerly, 30 to 40mph, gusts 65mph; possibly a lull in the afternoon - but by dusk toward south could reach 60mph gusts 100mph. Considerable buffeting from fairly low levels; although a possible temporary easing. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Heavy showers, risk whiteout Snow and hail showers will at times reach at least western hills in region. Moderate threat of 1 or 2 hours or near constant precipitation giving whiteout and small risk lightning.	Snow, mainly south Snow and hail showers may merge to give constant snow, with risk of unbroken whiteout. Perhaps rain later in south.
Cloud on the hills?	Often covering the hills Cloud base will vary rapidly: near precipitation, shafts of cloud as low as 550m, and widely below 950m. Between showers, higher summits will briefly clear.	Extensive: rapid change in base Cloud base will again vary rapidly: near precipitation, shafts of cloud as low as 550m, and widely cloud base around 950m. Between showers, higher summits briefly clearing.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Brief bursts of sunshine most widely east of Cairngorms NP. Hazy, with visibility very poor, or at times almost zero in snow.	Brief bursts of sun lower areas. Persistently hazy, with visibility almost zero in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C later -2C	-3C, perhaps 2 later in south
Freezing level	450m	550m but may rise to near summits in south late in day.

Planning Outlook: All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 3rd February, 2011

Frequent severe upland gales over the coming week. Hurricane force winds likely across the Highlands on Thursday evening. However also much lighter winds at times to north of frontal boundary waving across southern Scotland or northern England for several days. Precipitation will be frequent on all mountain areas, but focussed across western mountains and near waving front. Temperatures will constantly vary, with a series of freeze thaw cycles on higher areas, the freeze periods most persistent over Highland Scotland, where on western mountains there will be periods of considerable snowfall - but also of heavy rain and rapid thaw.

Forecast issued at 07:23 Wednesday, 02/02/11

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